

shells, and over an extended period of time, when food stamps came in, where they qualified. So there was a transition. After food stamps came in they did not have to depend to the same extent on subsistence.

I am reminded, I might say by my staff, I said that the Secretary was representing about 10 percent of Alaska's Native people. I am told Gwich'ins consist of about 1 percent of the Native people. So, it is even smaller. But my point is, in this transition of the Native people of our State, as a consequence of food stamps, they have become less dependent on subsistence. Subsistence played a vital role, but they did not have the total dependence. So, as a consequence, trapping was reduced and a little later we began to expand the welfare system.

So, today in Alaska we have a significant portion of our rural residents, most of them Native residents, dependent on subsistence and welfare. Now we are going to cut welfare. Welfare is going to be reduced. We all know that. The BIA, that plays a major role in the lives of many of Alaska's Native people, is going to be cut. Now, these people want jobs. They want jobs at home. These are good-paying jobs associated with resource development, oil and gas. So 99 percent of America's Native people, I should say 99 percent of Alaska's Native people, support, through their Federation of Natives, or thereabouts, opening this area. We have job training capabilities in Alaska.

We have a Job Corps center. We have a good experience of utilizing some of our Native people in Prudhoe Bay. But here is a long-term job opportunity. And the Secretary of the Interior has taken a position against a majority of Alaska's Native people in favor of that 1 percent, the Gwich'ins people who oppose opening up this area for competitive leasing. The justification for that is going to have to be the Secretary explaining to the Native people of Alaska why he has chosen to represent this minority.

Mr. President, I am going to be talking further next week on some aspects that I feel are important to this body. I think what we will do the first of the week is to go into some of the fact and fiction, because America's environmental community has found this issue to be very attractive in raising funding-generated membership.

I was in one Senator's office the other day. The Sierra Club had evidently contracted with one of our Nation's communications firms. The way it worked is that the Sierra Club provided the communications firm with telephone numbers of people who were members of the Sierra Club in that particular State.

They were able to dial in simultaneously, two calls in one. They would phone a Mr. Brown in the State of Arkansas and say, "Mr. Brown, we have the Senator's office on the line. We would like you to express your opinion about the possible drilling in the Arc-

tic oil reserve which would ruin this area and wipe out the animals in the area." Immediately, the call would come in—Mr. Brown would be on the phone—to the Senator's office and be able to log in a call.

This is a pretty significant effort. It costs a lot of money. We do not have those capabilities to explain our side of the story. What we do have is 18 years of experience producing oil from Prudhoe Bay. Where would this Nation be today without that oil, that 25 percent? We would be even more dependent on the Persian Gulf.

We have the finest oilfield in the world in Prudhoe Bay, and we are proud of that. We built an expertise in the Arctic with our geologists, with our USGS personnel showing that we can open this area safely, we can do it compatibly with the environment and the ecology, as evidenced by this picture of the caribou flourishing in Prudhoe Bay. The same set of circumstances can happen in ANWR.

So we have the can-do spirit. The only difference is today we have nearly 20 years of experience. We can make the footprints smaller. We can provide more jobs in this Nation. We can reduce our national security exposure to more dependence on the Mideast. We can provide for the largest single identification of jobs in the United States which will help our unions, help our economy, and, lastly, Mr. President, what it will do is it will address our balance of payment deficits. Half the balance of payment deficit is the price of imported oil.

I want to thank the President for his attention, and I wish he and my colleagues a good day.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN W. ANDERSON

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to an outstanding longtime member and president of the Alabama Farmers Cooperative [AFC], John W. Anderson, who retired from his post effective September 30, 1995.

John was named president of AFC on December 13, 1989. He became a member in 1969. During those 26 years, he served in various capacities at AFC, including his management of the Anderson's Peanuts Division from 1984 to 1989.

Anderson's Peanuts was founded in 1933 by John's father, Robert B. Anderson, and acquired by AFC in 1969. Since that time, the peanut division has grown steadily and now includes buying points, shelling plants, and storage facilities in more than 20 locations. It is a major supplier of both domestic and export peanuts.

John currently serves on the board of directors of the Mississippi Chemical Corp., and has previously served on the boards of the National Peanut Council, the Southeastern Peanut Association, Commercial Bank, and Andalusia Hospital. He is a past president of the Alabama Crop Improvement Association

and was selected as its Man of the Year in 1988.

A native of Andalusia, AL, John and his wife, the former Evelyn Wilder, have three grown children and five grandchildren. He has a degree in industrial management from Auburn University. He will spend—and no doubt enjoy—his retirement in Destin, FL, near two of the children. So, they will be properly surrounded by grandchildren.

John's leadership at AFC will be sorely missed, but his friendship, guidance, and example will continue to benefit the organization for many years to come. I commend him for a job well done, and wish him all the best for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

Mr. COVERDELL addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, it is my understanding we are functioning in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct, in 5 minute intervals.

TAX BURDEN ON AMERICAN FAMILIES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, several months ago, I was reviewing some data about the tax burden on the American family. I have mentioned it more than once here, but it was absolutely intriguing—one of the thousands of pie charts we see around here—showing the growth of taxes from 1950 to 1970, 1970 to 1980, and so on.

I was struck by this because in 1950—it always makes me think of Ozzie and Harriet, the sort of television portrayal of the average family of that time—and that family, Ozzie and Harriet, would have been sending, of every dollar they earned, 2 cents to Washington—2 cents. And outside of their local taxes and the like, the balance of what they earned they used to house that family, clothe that family, educate that family and provide for the health of the family.

What was stunning to me was if Ozzie was here today in 1995, he would be sending 24 cents of that dollar to Washington and about that much to the State and local government. So that family has lost enormous resources. They work over half the year now for one of the governments; a quarter of the year just for the Federal Government.

When I was a youngster, everybody always told me that the largest investment that an American family will ever make is for the home. That is the single largest investment by far the vast majority of Americans will ever make. That is not true anymore. Now the largest investment they will ever make is to the tax collector. That is the single largest consumer of the earnings of an American family today—the Government.

It made me curious because that is an enormous force and pressure on that